

Amendments to the Specification:

The paragraph starting at page 4, line 30, is amended and now reads as follows:

-- FIGS. 16 to 23 show variations for the guide in section; and,

FIG. 24 shows a schematic representation of a portable handheld work apparatus in plan view from below.

The paragraph starting at page 6, line 28, is amended and now reads as follows:

-- For fixing the coil spring, for example, in a portable handheld work apparatus 80 (FIG. 24), one end 5 of the coil spring 2 is fixed to a first housing part 81 and a second end 6 of the coil spring 2 is fixed to a second housing part 82. For fixing the coil spring 2 to the housing parts (81, 82) shown in FIG. 24, the plugs (3, 4) each have longitudinal bores 14 which function to accommodate an attachment means. This means can, for example, be a pin ~~(84, 85)~~ projecting into the longitudinal bore 14. However, it can be practical to provide an internal thread on the inner bore 14 and to threadably engage a screw into a plug 3 or 4 for fixing. The first housing part 81 can, for example, be a component connected to the drive motor of the work apparatus while the second housing component 82 can be connected to ~~the handle 83~~ a handle of the work apparatus. --

On page 6, between lines 27 and 28, please insert the following paragraph:

-- As shown in FIG. 4, the turns of the transition section 11 (see FIG. 2) come at least in part into contact engagement with helically-shaped slot 9 of the guide member 3 with the coil spring under load. From a comparison of FIGS. 3 and 4, it can be seen that the number of turns of the spring in contact engagement with the guide member 3 is greater in FIG. 4 than in FIG. 3 so the spring stiffness of the coil spring 2 is increased.